



Dear Students, Parents and Carers

Newsletter (13) – 20th October 2020

FURTHER UPDATE w/c 19/10/2020

Firstly, thank you all for your rapid responses to my message last night and for your support for my decision to move all students to remote learning this week. You have been brilliant in your support. I do not like students having to be out of school, in particular after the year we have had, but it was a necessary decision in order to provide education safely.

Teachers will be posting independent work for students on Insight for today. If you have Insight issues, please do contact our office office@wgsnitney.org.uk or 01993 702355 and they will ask our data team to help you.

This second change to our planned week means that we can bring forward even more our training on teaching and Microsoft Teams. The last fortnight has shown us that, in the 'new normal' there will be students isolating for various lengths of time throughout the weeks ahead, often at very short notice. The challenge now is to develop teaching that students both in school and out of school can benefit from at the same time. Our aim is to develop our practice this week to be fully prepared for after half term.

We will therefore be bringing our Microsoft Teams training forward to today, instead of Thursday. From tomorrow, learning will be a mixture of independent learning and some trials of lessons with Teams. We will be sending out some information tomorrow to help students to get onto Teams and some students will be asked to try a Teams session this week. Given the changing nature of this week, we will run some Teams trial sessions on Thursday as well as Wednesday. I know that I wrote to families on Friday about Thursday being an INSET Day, but, if your child is at home Thursday we would like to encourage them to participate in our Teams sessions.

Also this week, we will follow up the feedback from the 'Access to IT' survey that nearly 700 families have responded to. This has given us a clear picture of how we can best enable learning in the weeks ahead and create certainty where there is uncertainty!

Finally, if your child had an important event in school planned this week, please do contact the relevant teacher and we will aim to continue with this or to rearrange. I hope this gives a picture of the next few days. I will be in touch again soon with more Teams information.

Yours sincerely

Mr R Shadbolt,
Headteacher